

A.W.C.Gamon  
649 Clayton Street  
San Francisco, California

San Francisco Medical Society  
Local Branch, American Medical Association  
250 Masonic Avenue  
San Francisco 18, California

Dear Sirs,

I enclose a clipping from the column of the "Family Doctor" of the San Francisco Call-Bulletin, Dr. Walter Alvarez.

I, for one, was not aware that science had determined definitely that "criminal traits" are heredity. I would like to hear of this definite proof, if I may. If there is no such proof outstanding, I respectfully, but most strongly object to Dr. Alvarez's assertions. From a letter, and seemingly only a letter, he has damned this child as being quote, "evidently born of bad human stock."

There was apparently no mention of the present age of the child, age at which adopted, no definition of what criminal traits shown, and nothing on the environment other than in the parents' opinion it is, "a lovely home with much love and affection", in short, nothing that would give room for a soundly based medical diagnosis.

When feelings run against Medicine and Science, as they can so often do, this fuzzy thinking is perfect ammunition for the opponents of an independent medical profession.

The fact that the opinions expounded are just that, and belong to only one man, does not seem such a small thing when you consider the number of people the San Francisco Call-Bulletin reaches each day.

San Francisco Medical Society.....2

I would like your opinions on Dr.Alvares's statements and also, if possible, an idea of any new finds in the field of Genetics that would justify his statements. I am

yours respectfully,

Arthur W.C.Gamon

cc - Dr.Walter Alvarez  
San Francisco Call-Bulletin

People write to say the boy they adopted years ago is now showing criminal traits and they are at their wits' end what to do.

They say, "We have given him a lovely home, together with much love and affection, but it seems to have no effect on him. Our psychiatrist says that a good environment is everything, and so we must keep trying and hoping."

\* I regret to have to say that I have little faith in what a good environment can do to a child who was evidently born of bad human stock. I feel like the old Kentucky trainer who knows he cannot make a Derby winner out of a common colt. Usually, he can make a winner only out of well-bred stock.